



Date: November 5, 2004
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Carl Kemp, Manager of Public/Governmental Affairs
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: Weekly Update Ending November 5, 2004

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending November 5, 2004 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Flu Update, Department of Health and Human Services

The Health Department has received 3,550 adult doses of influenza vaccine, which represents half of the department's usual allotment of vaccine. The Health Department has been assessing the number individuals in the community at the greatest risk of illness or death due to complications associated with influenza, as well as ensuring compliance with Federal requirements for distributing vaccine to only high-risk groups. Top priority will be to distribute the vaccine to frail elderly in local skilled nursing facilities and in long term care facilities. More detail regarding vaccine distribution will be available in the coming days.

The City's Multi-Service Center (MSC) for the Homeless hosted a networking mixer for Continuum of Care agencies on October 21. Eighty representatives from homeless service providers attended the event. Presentations were provided on services and on how to better coordinate referrals to the MSC collaborative.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

The Skylinks at Long Beach Opening Ceremony and Cal Olson Charity Tournament took place on October 29. As part of the ceremony, a check for \$18,000 from the tournament proceeds was presented to the Partner of Parks for support of Long Beach Junior Golf programs. Those who played the course for the first time were very complimentary about the many significant improvements to the course. The opening of the restaurant/banquet side of the clubhouse is scheduled for early December.

November 5, 2004

Page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Health and Human Services

Presentations on bioterrorism preparedness will be made on **November 11** at 6:00 p.m. at the Neighborhood Resource Center, and on **November 23** at the Naples Improvement Association at the Long Beach Yacht Club at 7:00 p.m.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

The Long Beach Senior Center Volunteer Recognition Luncheon will be held on **November 12** from 11:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at the Senior Center. Volunteers who have worked at least 25 hours in 2003 and 2004 will be honored.

On **November 20**, the 31st Annual Kid's Fishing Derby, sponsored by the Long Beach Rod and Gun Club, in cooperation with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, will be held at the lake in Area III of El Dorado East Regional Park. Past years' Derbies have drawn as many as 1,200 kids, plus their families and friends. The event is open to all children ages two to 15 and is free of charge. Hundreds of prizes are awarded, and the child who catches the biggest fish is awarded a trophy provided by the Long Beach Press-Telegram and a new bicycle.

AWARDS

Health and Human Services

The Community Action Partnership in collaboration with the Health Department and the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) will receive \$750,000 over a five-year period for the Role of Men Academy, which seeks to increase involvement of fathers in their children's lives. The Role of Men Academy brings together three community organizing skills and support services of these three agencies.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire

Members of the Long Beach Fire Department, members of City of Long Beach CERT Teams, and volunteers from Long Beach Search and Rescue and the Association of Future Firefighters Club from Long Beach City College participated in a countywide disaster drill at the Los Angeles County Fire Department Training Facility on Saturday. The earthquake disaster simulation was done three times during the day to accommodate the large, countywide, turnout of CERT Teams.

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,011 emergency calls for service: 110 calls for fires of which 23 involved structures. It also responded to 688 emergency medical calls; 472 requiring paramedics.

November 5, 2004

Page 3

Police

A blood drive was held to support the Long Beach Memorial Blood Bank. A total of 31 pints of blood were donated, for a grand total of 136 for the entire year. The blood bank supply becomes depleted throughout the year, and as the holidays approach, the blood bank supply is even more critical. People are encouraged to give blood.

Health and Human Services

The Department's bioterrorism preparedness program's accomplishments will be presented at the 132nd Annual American Public Health Association in Washington, DC on **November 9 and 10**. One of the presentations is in collaboration with the Los Angeles Department of Health Services and the Pasadena Public Health Department.

Presentations on bioterrorism preparedness efforts were made to the West Long Beach Association at Silverado Park, and to the Pro West Neighbors United at the West Police Sub-Station.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Police

In an effort to reach more children, the Police Athletic League (PAL) implemented a four-week pilot after-school activity program. Police Detectives who work at the PAL facilities transport a portable trailer filled with athletic equipment to various areas within the city. Streets are blocked off and neighborhood children play together with adult supervision from 3 - 6 p.m. The portable playground was set up at 17th Street and Stanton Place last week and over 60 neighborhood kids and parents participated in the activities. Today, the playground will be at Anaheim Street and Raymond Avenue.

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

As part of the strategy to improve the properties in the Washington Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Area, staff has been working with the owners of the businesses on Magnolia Avenue between Pacific Coast Highway and Anaheim Street to encourage them to apply for the \$2,000 Commercial Rebate Program. These funds allow business owners to improve the exterior of their businesses. To date eight of the eleven business owners have applied for the program.

The West East Side Community Association (WESCA) hosted their second Annual Orizaba Park Halloween Carnival on October 29. Partners included the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, Long Beach Police Department East Division, Police Athletic League and Neighborhood Services Bureau. Over eight hundred neighborhood residents attended the free event. WESCA board members hosted a Cartoon Film Festival on October 16 and raised \$1,500 for the event.

November 5, 2004

Page 4

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

Beach Operations staff removed approximately 480 tons of debris from the city's beaches during the month of October.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

Americans With Disabilities Act Improvements

Construction to improve accessibility at MacArthur Park has been completed. At Whaley Park, construction continues to make steady progress with the completion of the restroom modifications. At Marine Stadium, construction is underway with the installation of a wheelchair accessible drinking fountain at the Marina Stadium Launch Ramp area and the installation of a fully accessible walkway around the Pete Archer Rowing Center.

Health and Human Services

Staff attended the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council's presentation on the 2004 Children's Scorecard on October 27. The event featured "Health, Families and Income: Key Measures of Child Well-Being for School Readiness and Success." Panelists discussed the impact of health access, family economic security and safe, stable, nurturing families on school readiness and success.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

The Haute Dog Howl-O-Ween Parade, with 500 entries and approximately 3,000 attendees, was held on October 31 at Livingston Park.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services

On October 30, over 5,500 youth and parents attended Halloween activities or carnivals at Bixby, Drake, Cesar Chavez, Houghton, Martin Luther King Jr., Ramona, Silverado, Stearns, Champions, Veterans, Wardlow, and Whaley Parks, and at California Recreation Center. Participants participated in arts and crafts, face painting, costume contests, game booths, cakewalks, pumpkin carving, and scary mazes of spooky fun for the entire family.

On October 30, Friends of El Dorado Nature Center, an affiliate of Partners of Parks, held a Native Plant Extravaganza to support El Dorado Nature Center. The Nature Center sold 1,503 water-wise plants and more than 100 packets of seeds.

On November 5, an Open House was held at the Bruin Den Teen Center with games, food and fun. Approximately 200 teens from the Cambodian Community Center and Wilson High School participated in this event.

November 5, 2004

Page 5

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

The Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 3,294 service calls, including 782 Gas and Water Utility Turn On orders, and 720 Turn Off orders. There were 1,608 Customer Service Orders for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 184-meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed and 178 customer emergency orders were completed.

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